

Special Interest Articles:

- Vehicle Emissions Testing
- Swimming Pool Safety
- River Festival Activities

Individual Highlights:

Child Care	2
Code	2-3
River Fest	3
Food	4



Free Vehicle Emissions Tests

The Air Quality Section performed a "trial run" of the new vehicle emissions program on May 20th. They tested a total of twenty-one vehicles and all of them passed the tailpipe emissions test. In addition, they conducted gas cap leak checks on some of the vehicles and all of them that they were able to test passed the test as well. (They were unable to test some of the 2001 and newer gas caps because they do not have an adaptor to fit them.) Air Quality also checked tire air pressure since improperly inflated tires are a safety hazard and can waste gas and cause the tires to wear out prematurely. Several vehicles were found to have under-inflated tires and the vehicle drivers were informed of this.

All in all, the event went well, and this practice run helped staff develop proficiency for the first public event that will be on June 5th. Volunteers from the Boeing Company and City of Wichita will staff the first event.

Vehicle Test Dates:

July 10th
August 7th
September 4th
October 2nd

Time: 10 AM to 2 PM

Location: TBA





Here are six "P-L-E-A-S" that promote healthy swimming, provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Swimming Project:

1. PLEASE don't swim when you have diarrhea. This is especially important for kids in diapers. You can spread germs into the water and make other people sick.
2. PLEASE don't swallow pool water. In fact, try your best to avoid even having water get in your mouth.
3. PLEASE wash your hands with soap and water after using the toilet or changing diapers. You can protect others by remembering that germs on your body end up in the water.
4. PLEASE take your kids on bathroom breaks often. Waiting to hear "I have to go" may mean that it's too late.
5. PLEASE change diapers in a bathroom and not at poolside. Germs can spread to surfaces and objects in and around the pool.
6. PLEASE wash your child thoroughly (especially his or her rear end) with soap and water before swimming. We all have invisible amounts of fecal matter on our bottoms that end up in the pool.

Protect Your Family at The Pool This Summer

This summer, swimming pools are filled with millions of people having fun and staying cool. But did you know that germs can contaminate swimming water even if it is treated with chlorine?

This summer, learning about recreational water illnesses (RWIs), which are spread by swimming in contaminated water, such as swimming pools, waterparks, lakes and the ocean, can protect you from illness.

RWIs are caused by germs like "Crypto" (KRIP-toe, short for Cryptosporidium), Giardia (gee-ARE-dee-uh), E. coli 0157:H7, and Shigella (Shi-GE-luh) and are spread by accidentally swallowing water that has been contaminated with fecal matter. Remember, you share the water with everyone in the pool.

Germs causing RWIs are killed by chlorine, but chlorine doesn't work right away. It takes time to kill germs. Plus, some germs

like Crypto are resistant to chlorine and can live in pools for days. That is why even the best maintained pools can spread illness. Healthy swimming behaviors are needed to protect you and your family from RWIs and will help stop germs from getting in the pool in the first place.

Visit www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming and take a quick look at what swimmers are asking this year.

Good Food at the Fest

This year's attendance at the 2004 River Festival was a record attendance-- 350,000 people attended the

event compared to last year's attendance of 300,000.

The food staff once again

is proud to announce that there were no reported cases of food-borne illness during the event.



Thank You WATER Center Donors!

A big thank-you to the following donors for their financial and material contributions:

Great Plains Earth Institute
D. Kay Johnson
Officer Dwain Diehl

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
South Central Progressive Neighborhood

River Ambassadors Educate Festival Crowd

The 2nd Saturday River Ambassadors event was a success. Almost 500 citizens took the river survey (both written & computerized) and over 200 entered the drawing. The Ambassadors gave away an inflatable kayak, an inflatable 4-person river raft, a fishing rod, and books about Kansas's fish.

Thanks to KDHE for again sponsoring this program with a 319 Grant.



Welcome Seasonal Inspectors

The Department extends a big welcome to our season staff.

These employees fill positions in "pools" and

the "tall grass and weeds" sections.

The Pools staff inspects all public pools and spas for health and safety.

The Tall Grass and Weeds employees respond to public complaints regarding tall grass and weeds on public property.

Third Annual River Trash Round-Up A Success

Fifty community volunteers participated with Environmental Health and other City of Wichita employees in the third annual River Trash Roundup on May 2nd.

Groups represented included Butler County

Community College, Gethsemane Baptist Church, area Girl Scouts, Riverside neighborhood residents, and Sierra Club members.

Forty bags of trash, totaling 460 pounds, were removed from the riverbanks in preparation

for the Wichita River Festival.

The annual "spring house cleaning" for the river also serves as an opportunity to educate the public on the value of local water resources, and the need to preserve them.



Code of the Month

Section 7.72.070
Pools without lifeguards.

At those type "A" or type "C" swimming pools that are not required to have an approved lifeguard plan and do not have an approved lifeguard plan, a warning sign shall be placed and maintained in plain view and shall state "Warning-- No Lifeguard on Duty" with clear, legible letters at least four inches high.

In addition, the sign shall also state "Children Less Than 16 Years Old Shall Not Use Pool Without An Adult in Attendance." (Ord. No. 41-146 § 7)

The River Water Quality Flags flew "blue" until the rain event on May 12th when the flags were switched to green.



Published by:
 City of Wichita
 Department of
 Environmental Health
www.wichita.gov

1900 E. 9th
 Wichita, KS
 67214

PHONE:
 (316) 268-8351

FAX:
 (316) 268-8390



Director
 D. Kay Johnson

**Environmental
 Services Supervisor**
 Roger Smith

**Environmental
 Compliance Manager**
 vacant

Editor:
 Libby Albers

Contributors:
 Mark Bradshaw
 Ted Cooper
 Nancy Jensen
 Shirley O'Dell R.N.
 John Stark

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.wichita.gov

Tire Clean-Ups Take Place Every Weekend



In 1995, the City of Wichita started the Neighborhood Cleanup Program, designed to help neighborhoods get rid of their bulky waste, salvage, tree waste, and waste tires.

On a typical Saturday from March to November, there will be two or three of these neighborhood cleanups in progress.

These cleanups are organized by the neighborhood associations in the areas to be cleaned.

The associations also provide most of the manpower to do the cleanups while the City provides the equipment and the drivers and covers the cost of each.

This partnership has worked very well now for nine years.

The role of Environmental Health has been to provide a truck and driver to pick up waste tires and take them to the waste tire collection site – "Southwest Salvage."

The Environmental Health Department started keeping records of the number of tires picked up each weekend since 1999.

Since that time almost 31,000 tires have been removed from back yards, alleys and vacant lots through this program.

An average of 5,000 tires a year are removed --so projecting back to 1995 and adding in the additional tires collected since the program started would bring the total to around 55,000 tires removed.

As long as people continue to hang on to their old tires after purchasing new tires for their vehicles, this program will never run out of tires needing to be removed.

On average, one waste tire is generated per vehicle per year.

It's a good thing that most vehicle owners do the responsible thing when getting newer tires by turning in the old tires and not taking them home.

About Our Department...

The mission of the Department of Environmental Health is *Protecting People... Preserving the Environment*. This mission is realized through our services, programs and projects that focus on environmental monitoring, code enforcement, and education.

